Unit Description
The idea that the English suffered under a ‘Norman yoke’ in the centuries after 1066 is a very old one, but was reinvigorated by historians of the late nineteenth century who stressed the ‘Germanic’ credentials of the ‘Anglo-Saxon’ people conquered by William, duke of Normandy. The inhabitants of twelfth-century England were critical of their Welsh, Scottish and Irish neighbours, but it was to be another six hundred before historians began to lump these peoples together as ‘Celts’, and ascribe to them a common culture of which they themselves were quite unaware. This unit seeks to unpick the strands of identity-formation in the British Isles from the twelfth century to the twentieth. How did people in the Middle Ages conceptualise national identity? What motivated those studying the past in more recent times to re-categorise the medieval inhabitants of the British Isles?

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
1 hour intro to unit + 5 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 24 hour take home exam (100%)

Essential Reading:
R. R. Davies, Domination and Conquest: The Experience of Ireland, Scotland and Wales, 1100-1300 (Cambridge, 1990)
H.A. MacDougall, Racial Myth in English History: Trojans, Teutons, and Anglo-Saxons (Montreal, 1982)

Further Information
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